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(54) Abstract Title

Providing an indication of hierarchical routing information in a packet

(57) A distributed community network 200 provides services to an arbitrarily large community of end users 204, 206, 208, by distributing the load among many machines 210, 212, 214. The network uses hubs 220, 222, 224, on the machines for routing packets. The hubs obtain routing instructions from a router 256 and use those instructions for routing the packets. The packets include content for the machines based upon a particular network service, such as a chat service 218 permitting users to interact in chat rooms, or a push/pull service 228 for pushing content to the user machines either directly or based upon information received from the users. The packets contain hierarchical routing information which enables them to be routed to targets.

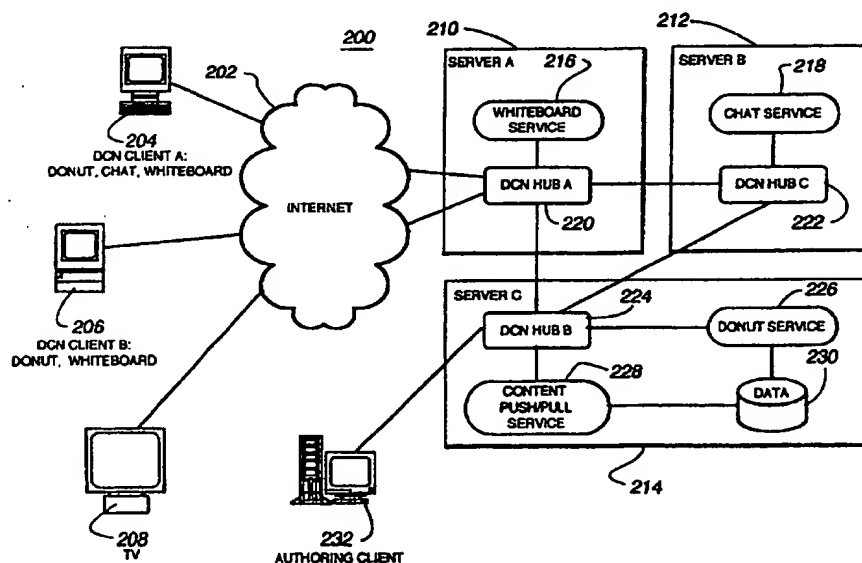


Fig. 10A